per acre of land that was to be brought under irrigation; if not, how much it was; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the capital cost, including the cost of interest and other pre-operational expenditure to be capitalised, of Sardar Sarovar project to be constructed on river Narmada works out to about rupees 54000/- per acre of land to be irrigated; if not, how much it is going to work out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) The cost of irrigation from Bhakra Nangal Project was about Rs. 2000/- per hectare compared to over Rs. 18,000/- per hectare for Sardar Sarovar Project.

Tapping underground water resources

673. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to tap the underground water resources in the water scarcity areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this direction in the State of Rajashan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) An irrigation potential of 3.6, 2 6, 1 0; 0.7, 4 66, 2.65, 4.32, 2.60 and 0 70 lakh hectares in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu respectfively is planned to be created from ground water during the Seventh Plan.

(c) The steps taken to accelerate development of ground water are allocation of higher financial provisions under plan and Institutional Sectors, strengthening of State Ground Water Organisation and increased participation of Central Ground Water Board in the programme of investigation and development of groundwater.

Diversion of surplus water from the Eastern region

674. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to divert the surplus waters of the rivers of the Eastern region to water scarcity areas in the Western and Southern regions of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the manner in which Government propose to tackle the chronic problem of floods in the Eastern region and utilise the surplus waters of the rivers of this region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) The National Perspective for Water Resources Development envisages transfer of water from surplus basins to deficit basins by interlinking of rivers and construction of storages.

(b) and (c) The perspective has two components:

(i) Himalayan Rivers Development envisaging interlinking of Brahmaputra and Ganga, Kosi, Gandak, Ghaghra, Ramganga; Yamuna and Ganga and Yamuna, Sutlej, Beas and Ravi.

(ii) Peninsular River Development envisaging interlinking of

Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna and Cauvery; diverting of West flowing rivers of Kerala to east; interlinking west flowing river between Bombay and Tapi; and interlinking of Southern tributaries of Yamuna.

National Water Development Agency, set up by Government of India is carrying out studies on the peninsular componet.

Raising of pecuniary limits of District Courts

675. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) how many civil cases are pending in the original jurisdiction of several High Courts in the country;

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to clear such pending cases;

(c) whether raising of pecuniary limits of Civil cases tried by the district Courts is being considered by Government to reduce the pendency in the High Courts;

(d) if reply to part (c) is in affirmative, what are the details thereof: and

(e) if reply to part (c) is in negative what are the reasons for not increasing the pecuniary limits of district Courts for trial of civil cases in the light of pendency in the High Courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The number of civil cases pending in the original jurisdiction of the High Courts in the country have been indicated in Statement-I, annexed herewith. (*See* below)

(b) Steps taken to reduce pendency of cases have been indicated in Statement II, annexed herewith. (*See* below)

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The administration of justice in the States is primarily the concern of the State Governments. The pecuniary jurisdiction of the District Courts in the States is governed by various State Acts. Several State Governments have revised the pecuniary limits of the District Courts from time to time. In view of this position, no proposal to increase the pecuniary limits of District Courts is under consideration of the Government.

Statement-I

Number of cases under Original Civil Jurisdiction pending before the High Courts in the country

	Name of High Courts	Number of Original Civil cases pending	
1	Andhra Pradesh	42126	
2	Bombay	56713	
3	Delhi	60305	
4	Gujarat	4911	
5	Jammu & Kashmir	28427	As on 30-6-1987
6	Punjab & Haryana	16157	
7	Orissa	20293	
8	Sikkim	31	
9	Assam	9582	
10	Calcutta	15694	
11	Himachal Pradesh	2617	